

Chapter 54

The Role of Social Networking in Civilizational Development: Towards Better Communication and Reasoning in the Global Virtual Nation and Virtual Nation

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ABSTRACT

This study defines the nature, scope, pace, and consequences of the rapid development of social networking in the 21st century. The impact of INFOCO systems upon civilizational development is investigated and predicted for the future. Such concepts as Global Virtual Society, Global Virtual Nation, Virtual Nation, Virtual Users, National Virtual Citizens, and Global Virtual Citizens are defined. Their electronic culture is defined, too. Finally some recommendations for further research are provided. In particular, the question of whether the concept of one world government is good or bad for mankind should be answered soon, in order to properly steer the further development of large-scale social networks.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to define the nature, scope, pace, and consequences of the development of social networking in the 2010s and beyond. The roots of social networking will be investigated. These include the human developments of lan-

guage, writing, books, computers, and computer networks as INFOCO systems specializing in handling and processing info-communications within rising civilization.

Social networking, as intensive, tele-computerized processes, must have a decisive impact upon human minds' development. In particular minds such as the GLOBAL MIND and UNIVERSAL MIND should be growing well, in addition to the

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already functioning BASIC MIND and WHOLE MIND. This should result in better communication and reasoning by humans.

The architecture of a generic social network is investigated and the impact of social networking and info-communication upon civilization will be established. The further possible development of social networking is described, leading to the concepts of Global Virtual Society, Global Virtual Nation, Virtual Nation, Virtual Users, National Virtual Citizens, and Global Virtual Citizens. Their electronic culture is defined.

In conclusion some further research directions will be suggested, mainly questing for the answer to whether one government for the world is a good or bad solution for the well-being of mankind.

THE FOUNDATION OF INFO-COMMUNICATION (INFOCO SYSTEMS) FOR CIVILIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Info-Communication Process within Civilization

The growth of humanity can be studied from many points of view, including such criteria as climatic conditions, the adoption of tools, production methods, and family structures. To my mind, the most significant criterion is the evolution of the information-communication system (INFOCO), which engineered the rise of prehistoric man into taking conscious dominance of his own existence. Before we can examine the degree of the eventual “liberation of the future from the past” we must first examine the evolutionary process of man and his “liberation.”

The first humans, of genus *Australopithecus* (two-legged, with large brain and tools), took form around 2 to 4 million years ago in East and South Africa. The use of tools changed man’s posture so that 1.6 million years ago our ancestors were already moving about in an upright position

(*Homo erectus*). *Homo sapiens* evolved in Africa between 120,000 and 130,000 years ago and had probably begun to spread out into Eurasia about 90,000 years ago or a little earlier. From the moment when a group of about 200 to 500 people left Southeast Africa (Kenya and Tanzania) and set out for Central Asia, para-social man was formed. Around 36,000 to 70,000 years ago stable populations were organized in China (68,000 years ago), Australia (50,000 years ago), and Europe (36,000 years ago). The development of speech in the European line of the Cro-Magnon is attributable to the curiosity of mobile man (Burenhult, 2003).

At this time biological evolution gave birth to cultural evolution, which gave rise to the language of inter-human communication. Thus para-social man became speaking man, a milestone that can be dated around 100,000 years ago (Jones, Martin, & Pilbeam, 1992). We are thus roughly the 3030th generation of speaking man, that is to say, man using the organized system INFOCO-1.

With the formation of INFOCO-1, Mankind started to blossom socially and culturally. After some 94,000 years (when we began to speak as *Homo verbalis*), human civilization was born at the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in the Near East. This marked the birth of *Homo tribalis* who organized into societies (tribes).

The development of information and knowledge played a determining role in the development of contemporary civilization, particularly the Western version. Christianity is nothing less than modern ideology. It is a form of emotional involvement and of information, communicated in an organized manner among people, motivating its followers to a meaningful life, supported by a defined system of values, parenthetically speaking, binding Christians to our contemporary times.

In ancient imperial Egypt, religion was already organized via an information system on papyrus, that is, a written language, the INFOCO-2 system. Yet writing did not make a decisive difference to social communication, since it was known only to a handful of priests, bureaucrats, and merchants.

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